

User's Newsletter

TI and "The Source"SM Information Utility Team Up to Create **TEXNET**SM Subscription Service

The TEXNET special software service for TI-99/4 Computer users, developed by Source Telecomputing Corporation and Texas Instruments, will be available this September. The TEXNET edition of the popular information/communication utility, The Source, has all of The Source's 1,200 — plus services, as well as a number of special features designed specifically for the TI-99/4.

Source/TEXNET services include electronic mail, a real-time or delayed-time communication service for TEXNET or Source subscribers (of whom there are now approximately 10,000). The TEXNET service also offers the United Press International (UPI) News Service which provides immediate keyword access to business, financial, general and sports news, continually updated by UPI.

Other Source/TEXNET services include electronic shopping and bartering; international research capabilities; market reports and portfolio management; electronic games; consumer tips; and advanced programming applica-

tions, including such business-oriented systems as Info X and Model 1 for business/financial forecasting.

Special Home Computer features of the new TEXNET data base service include color, graphics, sound, and music; a software exchange feature (made possible at no cost other than usage time) by uploading and downloading from the home to The Source utility and back again; and speech capabilities which use The Source's electronic mail capabilities in conjunction with the TI *Solid State Speech*TM Synthesizer. The TEXNET service also offers an electronic Users' Newsletter, "TI NEWS."

The cost of the TEXNET service is a one-time installation fee of \$100 plus a \$10 minimum monthly charge. The "on-line" charges are \$15 an hour (25¢/minute) from 7 AM - 6 PM, \$4.25 an hour (7.1¢/minute) on weekends and from 6 PM - midnight, and \$2.75 an hour (4.6¢/minute) from midnight to 7 AM.

Equipment needed to take full advantage of all the features of the TEXNET service

include the Terminal Emulator II *Solid State Software*TM Command Module, a *Solid State Speech*TM Synthesizer, an RS-232 Interface, and the TI Telephone Coupler (Modem). The TEXNET service also may be accessed through the Terminal Emulator I module, but not all of TEXNET's features can be used. To reach the TEXNET subscription service, users may dial local numbers in 270 major metropolitan areas and then type user commands for specific information.

Enclosed in this envelope you will find a TEXNET brochure with additional details and an order form. Please note that there will be no charge to convert current Source subscriptions to the TEXNET subscription. Contact The Source for further information.

SM The Source is a servicemark of Source Telecomputing Corporation, a subsidiary of the Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

SM TEXNET is a servicemark of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Update on Users' Groups

A local users' group is now active in the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, area. This group and others around the country are exceedingly helpful to those interested in sharing technical information, keeping up-to-date on new hardware and software, and exchanging

thoughts and ideas.

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio
Cin-Day Users' Group
Jim Schwaller
11987 Cedar Creek Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45240
(513) 825-6645

Please note a change for correspondence for the Dallas

Users' Group:

Dallas, Texas
Dallas TI Home Computer Group
Doyle Kelly
P.O. Box 672
Wylie, TX 75098
(214) 995-4068

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TI 99/4 Laboratory At North Texas State University

The Computer Sciences Department at North Texas State University (NTSU) in Denton, Texas, has installed 25 TI-99/4 Home Computer systems. These systems are being used for both student programming projects and for faculty research.

Students enrolled in the introductory computer science classes at NTSU use the microcomputers to complete their programming assignments. The department feels that making the microcomputer an integral part of the computer sciences curriculum has several educational advantages. First, students learn to use a system that is readily accessible to them at school, in the home, and in a business. The ease of using the smaller systems enables students to

begin their coursework with a positive feeling about computers, while the ability to play music, use graphics, and create speech provides students with both challenging and enjoyable programming experiences. Finally, because microcomputers are "total" computer systems, students learn and understand more fully basic computer concepts, such as storage, memory, input, and output.

Another successful project that NTSU has recently completed is the networking of several TI-99/4's to allow multiple access to a single disk and printer. To save programs on a floppy diskette or obtain hard copy listings, the students can simply send their programs from their "slave" computer to

the "master" computer. The master system which includes a Disk Memory System and a printer provides the needed input/output capability required by beginning programming students. This network arrangement allows up to 16 TI-99/4's to access a single disk and printer.

Several faculty and graduate students are also using the system for research in the areas of computer-assisted instruction and educational software design. Having found the TI-99/4 to be an easy-to-use educational system, the Computer Sciences Department at NTSU plans to continue using the microcomputers as a tool for teaching programming languages and as an instrument for educational research.

Random Bits

99/4 Disk Memory Drives

Remember to be sure to disconnect all power cords from the power outlets before you remove the disk drive cover. Do not rely on removal of the fuse or the on-off switch on the back of the unit to shut off power.

Protect Your Diskettes

Not enough emphasis can be placed on the care of your diskettes. They are magnetic media for storing programs and data, and they should be treated accordingly. Some rules to remember are: never touch the exposed parts of the diskette, never store your diskettes in areas with extremely hot or cold temperatures, never attach a paper clip to your diskette, and never write on the diskette label with a pencil or ballpoint pen.

If a diskette comes in contact with or is too close to a magnetic field, such as your television or Color Monitor, the information on the diskette could be destroyed.

Size Limitations of Programs Stored on Cassette Tape

The Memory Expansion unit adds 32K bytes of Random Access Memory (RAM) to the built-in memory of the computer. However, even with the Memory Expansion unit available, the largest program that can be stored on a cassette tape is 13.6K bytes without a disk system connected and 11.6K bytes with the disk system connected.

Although the length of the actual program is limited by the amount of available built-in memory, utilizing the Memory Expansion unit provides other advantages. For example, with the unit attached and turned on, your program can be the lengths stated above, while some data generated by the program (i.e. numeric, scalar, or array) and the program itself can be stored in the Memory Expansion unit. Without the unit, the program must be shorter so that both it and the generated data can be stored in the computer's built-in memory.

Weight Control & Nutrition Manual Corrections

The Weight Control & Nutrition *Solid State Software*TM Command Module is designed to utilize ONLY the TI Solid State Thermal Printer. It cannot use the TI RS-232 Interface and a compatible printer.

Also, on page 22 of the Weight Control & Nutrition manual, the second sentence in the last paragraph is incorrect. It should read, "As you make your food selections, be sure to select a *minimum of three foods per group (except in the dairy products category), all three of which must be Type 1 or Type 2 foods from the list.*"

The Personal Computer User's Newsletter is published by the Texas Instruments Personal Computer Division, P.O. Box 53, Lubbock, Texas 79408. All correspondence concerning this newsletter should be mailed to the above address.

Non-TI products are listed in this newsletter for your information. Their inclusion does not represent an endorsement by TI, and lists are not necessarily complete.

PERSONAL FINANCES SOFTWARE

| | REAL ESTATE | SECUR- ITIES | BANK ACCTS | BUDGET | TAXES | REC KPNG | ESTATE PLAN | TRANS | ENERGY MGMT | LOAN ANAL | MEDIA | SOURCE |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|----------------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| HOME FINAN DEC | X | | | | | | | X | | X | CM | TI |
| AMORT SCHED | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| AMORTIZATION SCHD | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | JOE FAIN |
| ANNUITIES | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| CONV LOAN ANAL | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| DEPRECIATION SCHD | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| DEPRECIATION SCHD | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | JOE FAIN |
| FINAN MATH | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| LOAN INTEREST | X | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| PERS FINAN AIDS | X | | | | | | | | | X | D/C | TI |
| PERS REAL ESTATE | X | | | | | | | | | X | CM | TI |
| SECURITIES ANAL | | X | | | | | | | | | CM | TI |
| STOCK RECORDS | | X | | | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| STOCK TRANSAC | | X | | | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| STOCK TREND/RPTS | | X | | | | | | | | | D | USERS GRP |
| CHECKBOOK MGR | | | X | X | | X | | | | | D | TI |
| CHECKBOOK I | | | X | | | X | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| CHECK SORTS | | | X | | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| CHECKBOOK BAL | | | X | | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| CASH FLOW | | | | X | | | | | | | C | JOE FAIN |
| COMPARE | | | | X | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| COMPARE/PTR | | | | X | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| HOME BUDGETING | | | | X | | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| HOUSEHOLD BUDGET | | | | X | | | | | | | CM | TI |
| MGMT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INCOME/AVE | | | | | X | X | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| MED-EXPENSES | | | | | X | X | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| TAX/INVESTMENT | | | | | X | X | | | | | CM | TI |
| REC KPNG | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1040 FORM | | | | | X | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| RECEIPT EXPENSES | | | | | X | | | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| RECORDS | | | | | | X | | | | | D | USERS GRP |
| ESTATE | | | | | | | X | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| INV-VALUE | | | | | | | X | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| INVEST? | | | | | | | X | | | | C | USERS GRP |
| AUTO EXPENSES | | | | | | | | X | | | C | USERS GRP |
| HOUSE COST | | | | | | | | | X | | C | USERS GRP |
| CONV STEP LOAN | | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| FUTVAL | | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| INST PMT | | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| INSTALLMENT PMTS | | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |
| INTEREST PROJ | | | | | | | | | | X | C | USERS GRP |

MEDIA: D = Diskette, C = Cassette, CM = Command Module

HOME MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

| | RECORD KEEPING | CORRES- PONDENCE | PHYSICAL FITNESS | FOOD | MAINTENANCE | MEDIA | SOURCE |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| ADDRESS FILE | X | | | | | C | JEFFWARE |
| ADDRESS FILE | | X | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| BLACK BOOK | X | | | | | C | DENALI DATA |
| DATA BASE #1 | X | | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| DIRECTORY | X | | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| ENERGY & SECURITY MGMT | | | | | X | D | RCL COMPUT |
| HOUSE INVENTORY | X | | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| INVENTORY | X | | | | | D | W.R. WILSON |
| MAIL LIST | | X | | | | D | TI |
| MASTER INDEX | X | | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING | X | | | | | CM | TI |
| PHYSICAL FITNESS | | | X | | | CM | TI |
| PULMONARY TEST | | | X | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| WEIGHT CONTROL | | | X | X | | CM | TI |
| & NUTRITION | | | | | | | |
| WORD PROCESSING | | X | | | | C | USERS GROUP |
| XMAS LIST | X | | | | | C | USERS GROUP |

MEDIA: D = Diskette, C = Cassette, CM = Command Module

Third Party Addresses

Denali Data
c/o 99/4(A) Home Computer Users'
Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 95148
Oklahoma City, OK 73143
(405) 787-8521

Joe D. Fain, Sr.
209 Presbytere Pky.
Lafayette, LA 70503
(318)984-9707

**99/4(A) Home Computer Users'
Group, Inc.**
P.O. Box 95148
Oklahoma City, OK 73143
(405) 797-8521

JEFFWARE
c/o 99/4(A) Home Computer User's
Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 95148
Oklahoma City, OK 73143
(405) 797-8521

RCL Computers
411 Allegheny River Blvd.
Oakmont, PA 15139
(412) 828-4301

W. R. Wilson, Inc.
928 N. Apple St.
Greenfield, IN 46140
(317) 462-1099

The Newest In TI Software

Texas Instruments now adds three more software packages to the growing list of applications programs available for the TI-99/4 and TI 99/4A Computers.

Inventory Management

The Inventory Management package (model number PHD 5024) provides seven programs that allow you to define inventory categories; enter, update, and/or delete stock items; and display and/or print inventory information. You can record up to 900 inventory items per diskette, as well as generate 32 or 72 column reports. Information on each item includes description of the item, unit cost, unit price, taxable or non-taxable designation, quantity on hand, quantity on order, and cumulative sales.

The suggested retail price of Inventory Management is \$69.95. Available in diskette only, it requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive), the TI Solid State Thermal Printer or the TI RS-232 Interface and a compatible printer, and either the TI Personal Record Keeping or Statistics Command Module.

Structural Engineering

This multi-purpose package is designed for students of structural engineering. Five different problem situations that are commonly encountered in the structural engineering field are covered: moment of inertia, dynamic loading/single degree of freedom, concrete beam stress analysis, trusses, and four-span moment distribution.

The package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of \$29.95 or on cassette at a suggested retail price of \$24.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5016) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive). The cassette-based ver-

sion (model number PHT 6016) requires a cassette recorder and TI Cassette Interface Cable.

Teach Yourself Extended BASIC

This computer-aided instruction course guides you through the features of Extended BASIC. It follows the "learn by doing" technique, allowing the user to experiment with the language's features as they are introduced. This package is excellent for both the inexperienced user who wants to learn how to program and the user who wants to understand fully the powerful capabilities of Extended BASIC.

The package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of \$24.95 or on cassette at a suggested retail price of \$19.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5019) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive). The cassette-based version (model number PHT 6019) requires a cassette recorder and the TI Cassette Interface Cable. Both versions require the TI Extended BASIC Command Module.

New "99'er Magazine™" Publication

The first issue of an exciting new magazine written specifically for users of the TI-99 Computer is now available. The "99'er Magazine™" publication provides extremely useful information for the inquisitive computer user.

The first issue features reviews on software packages, text-to-speech explanations, reviews of the TI Extended BASIC and TI LOGO languages, book excerpts, software listings, tutorials, explanations of state-of-the-art technologies, and an article that tells you how to write your own programs. In all, over two dozen in-depth articles provide hours of fascinating reading.

Written for both the experienced and inexperienced Home Computer enthusiast, the "99'er Magazine" publication can keep you informed of the latest developments in the rapidly growing Home Computer field.

To subscribe, fill out and mail this coupon.

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